

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 L-02

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R 152244Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2297

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNDP EAIS LA

SUBJECT: UNDP - GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 7 (B)

REF: STATE 008549 (USUN 357)

1. SUMMARY. IN EXTENDED CONVERSATION, AMB OGBU (NIGERIAN PERM REP) INFORMED AMB FERGUSON THAT AFRICANS WERE IMPLACABLE ON ISSUE OF REORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN BUREAU OF UNDP. NONETHELESS, THEY HAD BOTH PROPOSALS ON SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE OF ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB OGBU, AMB FERGUSON ASSERTED THAT ACCORDING TO INFORMATION IN POSSESSION OF USUN, AFRICANS HAD AGREED TO REORGANIZATION AFRICAN BUREAU ALONG LINES OF UNIFIED BUREAU WITH TWO COADMINISTRATORS WITH DOOKINGUE BEING RECOGNIZED AS PRIMUS INTER PARES. OGBU RESPONDED THAT QUITE THAT CONTRARY WAS FACT. AFRICANS HAD NEVER AGREED TO ACQUIESCE IN ANY FORM OF REORGANIZATION. IN FACT WHEN HE ARRIVED NYC LAST THURSDAY EVENING, HE MET BY DELEGATION OF "FRENCH SPEAKERS" WHO INSISTED UPON IMMEDIATE AFRICAN MEETING TO ARRIVE AT COMMON POSITION. COMMON POSITION ARRIVED AT AT FRIDAY MEETING WAS THAT NO ARRANGEMENT WHETHER DESCRIBED AS POLICY OR MANAGEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICAN GROUP IF IN FACT RESULT WAS SPLIT
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IN AFRICAN BUREAU. MOREOVER, AFRICANS WOULD RESIST DECISION,

AGAIN, WHETHER ISSUE CHARACTERIZED AS POLICY OR MANAGEMENT AT THIS SESSION UNDP. OGBU STRESSED THAT IN THIS MATTER, HE ACTING AS JANUARY CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN GROUP AND NOT AS NIGERIAN PERM REP.

3. AMB OGBU STATED THAT ON OTHER HAND, ON MERITS OF ISSUE, AFRICANS WOULD ACCEPT ARRANGEMENT OF SINGLE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR - "KOKINGUE OR ANY OTHER AFRICAN" - AND TWO DEPUTIES, ONE FOR EAST AND ONE FOR WEST. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, HE STATED, WOULD AFRICANS ACCEPT COASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS.

4. AMB OGBU FURTHER ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING THAT PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR COADMINISTRATOR WAS AN AMERICAN. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN BY PETERSON TO BE LIAISON WITH OAU AND ECA AND THAT IF HE NOW MOVED TO POSITION OF COADMINISTRATOR, AFRICANS WOULD BE DUTY-BOUND TO RAISE ISSUE OF ORIGINL GOOD FAITH OF APPOINTMENT.

5. AMB FERGUSON AND MINISTER-COUNSELOR KITCHEN WILL BE CALLING ON PETERSON IN HOPES OF PERSUADING HIM TO TAKE ACTION TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON WHICH ALL PARTIES WOULD BE LOSERS. IN FACT OGBU PLAINTIVELY URGED THAT US PERSUADE PETERSON PUT THE ISSUE OVER UNTIL ANY "LENGTHY TIME" SO LONG AS TIME IN FACT TURNED OUT TO BE LENGTHY.

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